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Letter dated 6 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to transmit to you the attached letter from Dr. Saadoun Hammadi, speaker of the National Assembly of Iraq, addressed to the President of the United States Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 22 (h) of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad A. **Aldouri**
Permanent Representative

* A/57/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 6 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Mr. President of the Senate,
Mr. Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Members of Congress:

Like others, I have listened to statements by members of the Congress of the United States, including Representative Dennis J. Kucinich and Senator Arlen Specter, reminding the President of the United States that under your Constitution it is a prerogative of Congress to declare war, including war against Iraq. On that basis, with the support of members of the National Assembly of Iraq, I felt it appropriate to address this letter to you.

Ladies and gentlemen:

One of the major problems between our people and our country, on the one hand, and successive United States administrations since 1990, on the other, apart from the hardship and the injustice of the constant aggression and destruction that has been inflicted upon our country and people, and the unjust blockade that has been imposed on us since that date, is the lack of dialogue between our country and yours, and their respective representatives, and the lack of opportunities to enable the Congress and the American people to get to know the facts as they really are, to enable the decision makers to act on the basis of an appraisal that is sound from both the objective and practical points of view and to give your representative bodies, and those people involved in political affairs, the possibility of seeing and observing the situation, and expressing their opinions and taking action on the basis of well-established facts, so that they would not do themselves the injustice of taking decisions or speaking in ignorance, or of doing injustice to those affected by their decisions.

This is the root cause of what has befallen our country since 1990. Had the facts been put to you, and to others, as they really are, and had dialogue been given a chance both practically and objectively, the course of events might have been very different. You may well remember that one of the details that was damaging to Iraq, and was among the main factors on which the United States Congress relied in 1990 in its urge to declare war on Iraq, was the story of Nairah and the hoax involving the incubators which was later shown to be a lie.

The situation that we have faced since that date, and continue to face, is one in which the United States Administrations concerned are likely to have received information from many sources, some of which inevitably have their own agenda or their own way of imagining things. On that basis, decisions have been taken to commit acts of aggression, against us after troops have been mobilized, and the chain of events has led to yet another series of acts of aggression, bringing death and destruction to the people of Iraq and to their property, without anybody attempting to establish the real facts or to distinguish between truth and falsehood.

Ladies and gentlemen:

We know the difference between truth and falsehood, and we know the facts on which our judgement is based. But our knowledge does not halt the aggression of the United States and its allies against our country and people. We would therefore

like you and fair minded people who represent American public opinion or who play a major role in shaping it, particularly in the media, to see the facts as they really are and not as they are represented to you as in the case of the Nairah story. When you get to know the real truth from both sides we do not think you would lose anything and your decision-making may gain in objectivity, irrespective of the direction it takes.

Mr. President of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House of Representatives, members of Congress:

This has been the essential problem that has brought suffering to my country which has lost more than a million children, to say nothing of young people and the elderly, as the international organizations involved have acknowledged. This has been the problem on account of which, since it has not been resolved, the United States Administration is threatening to invade Iraq. We therefore hope that you and your colleagues in the United States Congress will play a part in overcoming this difficulty by getting to know the truth through dialogue, after which you can make up your minds as you see fit.

Should you consider this to be worthy of your attention, I extend an invitation, on behalf of the National Assembly of Iraq, to a delegation of members of Congress to visit Iraq, comprising however many members you see fit, accompanied by as many experts as you wish in the chemical, biological and nuclear field, and invite you to bring information provided by your Government concerning its untrue claim that Iraq has produced chemical and biological weapons and that it is in the process of producing nuclear weapons, a claim that has been made by officials in your country and has been echoed by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

Once your delegation, together with the accompanying experts in all relevant specialities, have inspected the sites in Iraq which, according to your information, are among those equipped to produce biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, and after you have been our guests for a period of three weeks during which time we shall provide you with the facilities you need to carry out your task of inspecting installations and facilities that allegedly produce or are intended to produce, chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, however far underground they may be, the decision will be yours; I do not think that you would stand to lose anything if you were to take your decision after having familiarized yourselves with the true situation on the ground.

(*Signed*) Saadoun **Hammadi**
Speaker of the National Assembly